feasible to link the other locations in Gujarat with the Delhi, Secunderabad, Calcutta, and Chennai Systems in phases only after each System has been connected on the network.

Capacity of Barauni Oil Refinery

*156. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Oil Refineries whose capacity has been enhanced during the last three years; and

(b) the details of the capacity of Barauni Oil Refinery situated in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) During the last three years, capacities of four oil refineries have been enhanced.

(b) Barauni Oil Refinery in Bihar has three Crude Distillation Units. The total capacity of the Barauni Oil Refinery of these three units taken together is 3.3 MMTPA.

Accident in Ahmedabad-Howrah Express

*157. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the accident in Ahmedabad-Howrah Express on 14th September, 1997, near Champa;

(b) the number of people killed and injured and the compensation paid in each case;

(c) the loss caused to the railway property; and

(d) whether any enquiry was instituted and, if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) 8033 Ahmedabad-Howrah Express while on run towards Howrah on 14.09.1997, 7 bogies next to the Train Engine got derailed at the approach of the bridge near Champa Station on Bilaspur Division of South Eastern Railway, where some repair works were going on. 5 out 7 derailed coaches fell into the river bed resulting in death of 88 passengers and injury to 369 passengers, out of which 127 passengers sustained grievous injuries. The ex.gratia payment amounting to Rs. 25,000/-, 15,000/- and 2,000/- have been paid to the kins of the persons killed and to the persons, who have sustained grievous and simple injuries respectively. The payment of compensation will be decided after claims have been lodged with the concerned Bench of the Railway Claims Tribunal by the claimants and affected parties. The accident has been investigated by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, South Eastern Circle, whose final report is awaited. *Prima Facie,* discontinuity in rail during its repair and failure of railway staff are the reasons for the accident. The loss to Railway property has been estimated at Rs. 69,83,000/- approximately.

Oil Reserve in Tripura

*158. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whehter it is a fact that the Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has entrusted two U.S. firms to conduct survey to tap possible oil reserves in Tripura;

(b) if so, by when it would start surveying; and

(c) whether any survey is being conducted in other States of North-East specially Manipur regarding tapping of oil reserves?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Government of India has awarded a block (AA-ON/3) in Central and Eastern Tripura to Okland Company and Rexwood Exploration, both of USA for exploration subject to finalisation of contract terms and conditions.